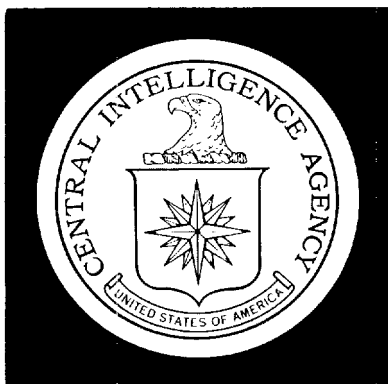


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LIBYA: US-LIBYAN RELATIONS MAY BE HEADED DOWNHILL.

[REDACTED]

THE RULING REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL IS NOW DEBATING THIS ISSUE AMONG OTHERS. ONE FACTION IS URGING THAT THE US BE GIVEN UP AS A HOPELESS CASE, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW MUCH WEIGHT THIS FACTION CARRIES.

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SINCE THE COUP LAST YEAR, THE NEW REGIME HAS IDENTIFIED WITH THE RADICAL ARAB STATES THAT BROKE RELATIONS WITH THE US DURING THE ARAB-ISRAELI WAR IN 1967. THE MAIN SOURCE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS--THE OCCUPATION OF WHEELUS AIR BASE--WAS RESOLVED BY THE US DECISION TO EVACUATE THE BASE BY 30 JUNE.

AN IMMEDIATE PRETEXT FOR THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE US WOULD BE A NEGATIVE REPLY TO A REQUEST FOR THE ADDITIONAL F-5S ORIGINALLY SOUGHT BY THE MONARCHY. THE SUBSTANTIAL US OIL INTERESTS IN LIBYA ARE VULNERABLE TO POSSIBLE POLITICALLY INSPIRED ACTIONS AGAINST THEM.

[REDACTED]

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